(c) whether there are also some points in the agreement on which implementation could not be started at all ; and

(d) if so, the details of those points and the difficulties being faced in their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Rajiv Longowal Accord was signed on 24.7.1985 and its implementation was started immediately thereafter.

(b) to (d) Points 7 and 9 of the Accord which relete to territorial claims and sharing of river Waters respectively provided for the following main conditions for the implementation of which specific timeframe had been indicated.

(1) the actual transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and areas in lieu thereof to Haryana will take place, simultaneously on 26.1.1986.

(2) the construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal shall continue. The canal shall be completed by 15th August, 1986.

(3) the claims of Punjab and Haryana regarding the sharing of river waters will be referred to a tribunal. The tribunal will render its decision within six months and would be binding on both the Parties.

Though these conditions could not be implemented with in the given timeframe because of differing percentions of concerned States, yet the Government remains committed to implement the Rajiv Longowal Accord.

[English]

Plantation of Orchards

2225. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to preserve eco-balance through plantation of the Orchards ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Preservation of the environmental stability and ecological balance is the principal aim of the National Forest Policy, 1988. Afforestation and tree plantation work is undertaken under the programmes of the different Ministries and State Governments under the 20-Point Programme. Fruit bearing trees can be planted on forest land if the species to be planted are indigenous and such plantation activity is part of an overall afforestation programme for the forest area in question. The species for plantations are selected by the State/UT Governments which are implementing various afforestation schemes, taking into account the climatic and soil factors. The provisions in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 discourage the use of forest land for cultivation of horticultural crops/orchards.

Increase in Price of Levy Sugar

2226. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the price of levy sugar in February, 1997;

(b) whether the additional amount received from the said increase has been provided to the sugar producers;

(c) if so, the estimated additional amount likely to be received by the sugar producers during 1996-97 as a result of the said increase;

(d) the estimated total production of sugar during the cane crushing year 1996-97 ; and

(e) the total quantity of levy sugar received by the Government and the exact percentage of the said quantity alongwith the percentage of the quantity of levy sugar prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment Orders on the claims of 151 sugar factories have been sent to FCI for payment.

(c) No such estimate can be prepared because it depends upon the quantity of levy sugar produced during sugar season 1996-97 but purchased from the sugar factories at the prevailing prices of last year, such quantity varies from factory to factory. The factories are expected to submit claims giving details of all such quantities of sugar, whenever there is a revision in the price of levy sugar.

(d) The estimated production of sugar during 1996-97 is about 130 lakh tonnes.

(e) The total quantity of levy component of sugar produced during 1996-97 is estimated to be 41.6 lakh tonnes which is about 32% of the total production. All factories except factories under incentive schemes are legally bound to give 40% of the total Sugar produced by them, as levy. Due to the factories under incentive schemes the overall percentage of levy sugar produced, in the country as a whole, gets reduced to a lower percentage (this year 32%).